(b) if so, what is the capacity of the unit ;

(c) whether Government propose to instal RSUs in all the major cities ; and

(d) how long it will take to manufacture the RSUs on commercial basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Yes Sir.

(b) RSU has a maximum capacity of 1600 lines.

(c) There is no proposal to install RSUs in all major cities. RSUs will be installed on local needs of configuration of equipment which vary from place to place.

(d) the Vendors can take up commercial production only after technology has been transferred by C-DOT after obtaining required approval.

REPORT OF ATHREYA COMMITTEE

2487. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the Report of Athreya Committee set up for the reorganisation of the Telecom System ; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to implement the report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The Athreya Committee in its report has recommended that the Department of Telecommunications/field organisations should be restructured into 6 corporations namely India Telecom Operating Corporation as Holding Company, 4 Zonal Telecom Operating Corporations and one long distance connector corporation.

(b) The recommendations of the Athreya Committee are under active consideration of the Government.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में डाक-घर भवन का निर्माण

2488. श्री महेश्वर सिंह : क्या संचार मंत्री 14 जुलाई 1992 को राज्य सभा में तारांकित प्रश्न 84 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिमाचल प्रदेश के रिकांगपियो जिला किनौर में प्रधान डाक-घर के भवन के निर्माण की अद्यतन स्थिति क्या है ;

(ख) क्या कुल्लू हिमाचल प्रदेश में डाक-घर भवन के निर्माण की मंजूरी दी गई है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब और यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और निर्माण कार्य कब तक प्रारम्भ होने की संभावना है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम)

(क) 40 प्रतिशत कार्य समाप्त हो चुका है ।

(ख) और (ग) जी हां । मंजूरी 2-9-93 को दी गई थी । निर्माण कार्य मार्च, 1994 तक आरम्भ हो जाने की संभावना है ।

IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL TELECOM SECTOR IN ANDHRA PRADESH

2489. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to hand-over telephone exchanges to private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of rural telecom exchanges; and

(d) whether any pilot projects are proposed in Andhra Pradesh to improve rural telephone sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) As in statement I (*See* below).

(d) As in statement II.

STATEMENT I

THE STEPS TAKEN ARE AS GIVEN BELOW :—

1. Replacement of manual and electro-mechanical exchanges by electronic exchanges.

2. Installing new electronic exchanges on large scale.

3. Providing adequate capacity power plant and stand by power supply. Use of non-conventional power energy like solar energy etc. wherever feasible in cases where normal electric supply is not satisfactory.

4. Providing stable media for the circuits linking the rural exchange to the parent exchange.

5. Providing sufficient circuits to porvide STD and group dialling facilities.

6. Provision of upgraded outdoor plant for subs-lines and providing long distance public telephones and long distances connections on radio systems like M A R R.

STATEMENT II

Yes, Sir. MAX-III electro-mechanical exchanges in the rural areas are proposed to be converted into modernised electronic exchanges and to provide STD facility to these rural exchanges progressively including Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle subject to the availability of resources.

VIABILITY OF EASTERN ZONAL CORPORATION

2490. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Zonalising the existing telecom set-up arrived at by indepth study at different levels have created doubt about the viability of the proposed Eastern Zonal Corporation;

(b) which are the states being included under different telecom operating zones proposed for the country ; and

(c) what are the viability prospects for Eastern Zone and what is the long term plan in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) Do not arise at present as the various aspects of the reorganisation of the Department of Telecommunications including financial viability in the event of zonalisation are still being studied.

BOOM IN TRAFFIC OF POST CARDS

2491. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware (Economic Times dt. 28th November, 1993) of an unmanageable boom in the traffic of post cards in the wake of cultural|quiz programmes beamed on TV networks:

(b) if so, how much expenditure Government incur against the cost of 15 paise per Post Cards on handling each articles and the cummulative losses estimated for an year; and

(c) whether Government would consider banning of Post Cards for commercial purposes including quiz|contest programmes at the subsidised rate of 15 paise and levy the commercial rate of 60 paise from users ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) While it is known that postcards are used extensively for Quiz competitions broadcast on television, there is no report of unmanageable boom in traffic of postcards.